

HERITAGE

Gardner family tradition of giving supports future educators

Charles and Oneta Gardner lived their lives with a dedication to education and an appreciation for the value of hard work and service. Their legacy now continues with a scholarship fund to help future educators complete an undergraduate course of study.

“They were supporters of young people and education,” said **Susan Nelson ’71**, the Gardner’s daughter.

Born in 1914, Charles and Oneta were childhood sweethearts, after growing up across the street from each other in Middlebury, Indiana. They remained in Elkhart County for their entire lives, settling in at a permanent address in Goshen — though they did winter in Florida later in life. In their adult lives and into retirement, the couple enjoyed gardening, golfing and helping with Bible school at church. Spending time with friends and family was important to the Gardners, and Charles even handmade wooden toys for his children and grandchildren.

Charles obtained his teaching certificate from Goshen College in the mid-1930s and went on to teach two years at a rural, one-room school, where most of his students came from conservative Mennonite homes. He then moved into the business sector, starting Goshen Implement Company to sell International Harvester equipment to local farmers. While Oneta attended business college and aided in running her husband’s company, she mostly



Oneta and Charles Gardner

focused on raising their four children, **Ruthann ’62, Thomas ’69, Susan ’71** and **Judith ’75**, all of whom attended Goshen College.

The Gardners were active members of College Mennonite Church and Charles was one of the founding board members of Bethany Christian Schools. He served as the treasurer of fundraising for College Mennonite Church when the congregation was building the Church-Chapel, as well as the treasurer for the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference.

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Our students are saying...

“I hope to build bridges of peace between those of difference. I believe that diversity and differences are to be embraced rather than feared, and I hope to be able to provide a contribution to research in finding ways to build a bridge (or multiple bridges) of peace.”



— **Emma Eitzen**

a sophomore sociology major from Lititz, Pennsylvania

Throughout their lives, the couple provided financial support to a number of educational institutions, including the Adriel School in West Liberty, Ohio, and Goshen College. The couple also “always had a ‘Save the Children’ child they supported and corresponded with,” said Nelson, as well as participants in the International Volunteer Exchange Program (IVEP) who would stay in their home and occasionally work at Charles’ business. They frequently

would entertain Goshen College students in their home.

Following Oneta’s death in 2016, the couple’s family established the Charles V. and Oneta B. Gardner Scholarship fund as a way to honor and remember their parents and their commitment to Christian education, as well as to celebrate the family’s strong connection to Goshen College.

“They believed strongly in education, and especially Christian education,” said Nelson. “They always assumed we would go to college and paid our

tuition to attend. All of us siblings also believe that education is important. We think we need more good teachers and, even though it is a small way, we want to show them support in getting good preparation for their profession.”

As an homage both to Charles’ background in teaching and to the couple’s passion for the importance of education and educators, this fund will be used to support Goshen College students pursuing a degree in education.

— by **Siana Emery ’20**

Lillian Amstutz Gotshall ‘taught values’

Lillian Amstutz Gotshall ’56 had a lifelong passion for teaching. Ever since she was a young girl in Kidron, Ohio, where she began tutoring in a one-room schoolhouse, Gotshall impacted young children in and out of the classroom.

With an emphasis on learning as a child, Gotshall’s parents taught her to share her knowledge and experiences with others. Her sister **Adeline Yoder ’64** said these values were instrumental in shaping Gotshall.

“Teach values, live those values, teach yourself new things, educate, educate, educate,” Yoder said.

Gotshall took this advice and ran with it, pursuing a career in elementary education from the start of her educational development.

Gotshall chose to attend Goshen College and eventually graduated with an elementary education degree. Following her graduation, she embodied GC’s motto of “Culture for Service” as she moved to Arizona in order to teach on Hopi and Navajo reservations.

Carrying on the fervor of learning that was instilled in her at a young age, Gotshall continued her education trek

in 1965 by earning a master’s degree in education from the University of Northern Colorado.

Gotshall was an active member in Mennonite and Methodist churches throughout her life. After she married her husband, Richard Fox, a minister for the Christian church, she channeled her teaching abilities toward Sunday school classes, arts and crafts workshops and Bible studies for young children.

Gotshall and the Amstutz family played an instrumental role in the founding of Camp Luz in Orrville, Ohio. The camp fulfilled two of her passions: faith and nature. Gotshall came up with the name ‘Camp Luz’ based off the biblical reference to the ancient city Luz where Jacob met God. She hoped the newfound camp would do the same for children who attended.

In addition to teaching, Gotshall had a deep passion for oil painting, music and travel. She was a member of numerous choirs, played the piano and supported ensembles like the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. She explored India, South America, Europe and enjoyed cruises.



Lillian Amstutz Gotshall '56

Before her death in 2017, Gotshall instructed that some of her unused retirement funds were to be given to Goshen College in order to sponsor scholarships to students in financial need. The scholarship fund in her name gives priority to students studying elementary education, especially those looking to teach in lower grades as Gotshall believed a child’s education is formed at a very young age.

— by **Nick Yutzy ’21**

THEN & NOW



1964

HERITAGE

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2019

The Union — Welcoming all to campus

The Goshen College Commons Project in the Union Building: The Crossroads of Campus

Throughout its 60+ year history, the Union Building has been a hub of student activities, athletics, concerts and more. As our campus has grown and changed, the Union has continued to be an important crossroads of campus.

This summer, the Goshen College Commons Project is revitalizing the Union to offer vibrant, innovative and engaging space for welcoming newcomers, encouraging discourse, building relationships and serving as a witness to the impact that Goshen College has in the world and in the community.

Changes to the Juanita Lark Welcome Center, the Leaf Raker Cafe (*above*) and office spaces are nearly complete, and the Union will become a permanent home for **Arlin and Naomi Hunsberger's '55 Haitian Art Collection** — one of the finest Haitian art collections in the Midwest — making it fully accessible to the campus and the public.

Learn more at goshen.edu/union

Tax reform and charitable giving



If you are a U.S. taxpayer, you already know that the tax act passed by Congress and signed by President Trump in 2018 likely had an effect on your 2018 tax return filed this spring. The standard deduction was nearly doubled. Of the “big three” deductions consisting of state/local taxes, home mortgage interest and charitable giving, only charitable giving remained unchanged. The Bottom line: while about a third of U.S. taxpayers itemized deductions in 2017, only around 10 percent did so in 2018.

So, if you use the standard deduction rather than itemize deductions, what you give to charity has no effect on your taxes. What to do about it? If you're at least 70½ years old and have an IRA account, there's a wonderful

solution. Have your custodian send a gift directly to charity from your IRA. It counts as part of your required distribution but you don't need to claim it as taxable income.

Not 70½ or older? One idea is to do your giving every other year, thereby alternating between itemizing deductions and using the standard deduction. Perhaps even better would be to establish a donor advised fund, fund it every other year but distribute amounts to charity in the same manner as you did before. Questions about any of this? Give me a call or send me an email.

– **Roger A. Nafziger**,
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